

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

A. Status of the Claims and Explanation of Amendments

By this paper, the title is amended. This amendment is believed to resolve the objection to the title of the April 17, 2007 Office Action at page 2. Applicant notes, however, that the title has been amended to enable the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the public generally to determine quickly from a cursory inspection the nature and gist of the technical disclosure and to aid indexing, classifying and searching. 37 C.F.R. § 1.72(b); MPEP § 606.01. This amendment is *not* intended to narrow, limit, alter or otherwise characterize what Applicant regards as the invention. It is, of course, the claims and not the title that defines the invention being claimed.

Claims 1-10 are pending. By this paper, claims 1, 2, and 7-10 are amended. Claim 1 is amended to delete “a plurality of drivable parts,” “the plurality of drivable parts including a first drivable part whose operation speed can be selected only in steps” and “respective,” and amended to recite “a first and second drivable parts.” Similar amendments are made to claims 2, 8 and 10. Claim 7 is amended to delete “7” and “plurality of drivable parts includes the first drivable part and a second drivable part whose” and to recite “1,” “the operation speed of the first drivable part can be selected only in steps, and the” and “of the second drivable part.” Claim 9 is amended to delete “An” and to recite “The.” Support for these amendments may be found throughout the application as originally filed, including for example at paragraphs 0061 and 0323-0324. Accordingly, no new matter will be added to this application by entry of these amendments

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The office action objected to claims 7 and 9 for alleged informalities. [April 17, 2007 Office Action at p. 2]. The above-described amendments to claims 7 and 9 are respectfully asserted to render moot those objections.

The office action rejected claims 1-3 and 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,507,366 to Lee in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,614,982 to Yasukawa. [04/17/2007 Office Action at p. 3]. The office action also rejected claims 4-6 under § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Lee in view of Yasukawa in further view of Examiner's Official Notice<sup>1</sup>. [04/17/2007 Office Action at p. 16]. Lastly, the office action rejected claim 7 under § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Lee in view of Yasukawa in further view of Applicant's admitted prior art<sup>2</sup>. [04/17/2007 Office Action at p. 18].

B. Claims 1-10 are Patentably Distinct from the Cited References

The rejections of claims 1-10 are respectfully traversed. As explained more fully below, the requirements for such rejections are not met.

Applicant's claim 1 recites:

“1. An image-taking control apparatus controlling a first and second drivable parts of an image-taking device, such that operations of the drivable parts from their current positions to their target positions finish substantially simultaneously, the image-taking control apparatus comprising:

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1 The Examiner has taken “Official Notice that it is old and well known in the art to have the speed selector select an operation speed at which the time difference becomes longest.” [04/17/2007 Office Action at p. 16]

2 The office action asserts that Applicant has admitted “Matsubara” as prior art. Applicant assumes that JP 58-6163, which was disclosed to the United States Patent and Trademark Office in the November 8, 2004 Information Disclosure Statement and is referenced in paragraph 0005 of the application, as originally filed, is the “Matsubara” reference. If something else was intended, Applicant respectfully requests appropriate clarification.

a speed selector selecting an operation speed for each of the drivable parts, based on information on its current position, information on its target position, and information on a target operation time from a start command time at which an operation start of the drivable parts is commanded until the respective operations to the target positions finish; and

a controller performing such control that each of the drivable parts operates at its operation speed selected by the speed selector;

wherein the speed selector selects a specific operation speed for the first drivable part from selectable operation speeds of the first drivable part, the specific operation speed being an operation speed at which the operation to the target position can finish within the target operation time; and

wherein the controller calculates an anticipated operation time needed until the operation of the first drivable part to its target position at the specific operation speed finishes, and lets the operation of the first drivable part start when a waiting time corresponding to a time difference between the anticipated operation time and the target operation time has passed after the start command time.”

Lee is directed toward a method and apparatus for automatically tracking an object. [Lee, Abstract]. The apparatus includes, among other things, a camera for capturing an image of the object, a system controller, a pan/tilt controller for driving the pan motor and tilt motor in correspondence to movement of the object, a zoom/focus controller for adjusting the zoom lens of the camera. [Lee, col. 3, lines 4-32]. The pan/tilt controller and zoom/focus controller are connected to the system controller, which initializes the apparatus and generally controls the operational sequence of the respective functional blocks (i.e., drivable parts). [Lee, col. 3, lines 41-45].

The office action asserts that Lee discloses an “image-taking control apparatus that controls a plurality of drivable parts . . . such that operations of the respective drivable parts from their current to their target positions finish substantially simultaneously” at column 3, lines 11-27. [04/17/2007 Office Action at p. 3]. That text is a portion of Lee’s specification, and reads as follows:

“A pan/tilt controller 5 which is connected to the pan motor 3 and the tilt motor 4 controls driving of the pan motor 3 and the tilt motor 4 in correspondence to movement of the object. For this purpose, the pan/tilt controller 5 obtains a motion vector of the object, and calculates an angle for the camera 1 to be rotated in the horizontal and vertical directions, using the obtained motion vector. Then, the pan/tilt controller 5 generates motor drive pulse signals, corresponding to the direction and size of the motion vector, to move the camera 1. These generated motor drive pulse signals are output to the pan motor 3 and the tilt motor 4. As a result, the pan motor 3 rotates the camera 1 in the horizontal direction, that is, in the left or right direction with respect to the front of the lens of the camera 1. At the same time, the tilt motor 4 moves the camera 1 in the vertical direction, that is, in the up or down direction with respect to the front of the lens of the camera 1.”

[Lee, col. 3, lines 11-27].

The above referenced text is directed to the pan/tilt controller of the apparatus used to track moving objects. When an object moves, the apparatus obtains a motion vector of the object and, based on the motion vector, calculates an angle for the camera to be rotated in the horizontal and vertical directions (i.e., pan and tilt directions). [Lee, col. 3, lines 11-16]. The pan/tilt controller drives a pan motor and a tilt motor with pulse signals. [Lee, col. 3, lines 17-24]. In response to the pulse signals generated by the pan/tilt controller, the pan motor and tilt

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motor simultaneously begin moving the camera in a horizontal and vertical direction, respectively. [Lee, col. 3, lines 24-27]. The text does not, however, mention the time it takes for the apparatus to finish the pan and tilt operations, much less whether the operations are finished substantially simultaneously.

Further, Lee is silent on whether the apparatus' zoom and focus operations are finished substantially simultaneously to the pan and tilt operations, or to one another. According to Lee, it appears that in the process of tracking a moving object, the zoom and focus operations are performed after the apparatus has performed its pan and tilt operations (i.e., rotated the camera in a horizontal and vertical direction). [Lee, FIG. 3B; col. 6, line 34, to col. 7, line 5 (when a camera tracks the movement of the object, the apparatus constantly checks whether the camera should be rotated further in a horizontal or vertical direction beyond the pan/tilt signals initially generated by the pan/tilt controller)]. Moreover, one operation could be finished, and yet the apparatus still could be driving the other operations in an attempt to track the moving object. [See e.g., Lee, FIGs. 3B, 3C; col. 7, line 55 to col. 8, line 4 (“Zooming ceases and the pan motion carrier **11** is rotated one step in a direction opposite to the previous rotational direction.”) (emphasis in original)]. Thus, the pan, tilt, zoom and focus operations may not finish substantially simultaneously. Therefore, Lee does not teach, disclose or suggest an “image-taking control apparatus that controls a first and second drivable parts. . . such that operations of the drivable parts from their current to their target positions finish substantially simultaneously” as recited in Applicant’s claim 1.

The office action does not contend that Yasukawa teaches, discloses or suggests an “image-taking control apparatus that controls a first and second drivable parts. . . such that operations of the drivable parts from their current to their target positions finish substantially

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simultaneously” as recited in Applicant’s claim 1. Yasukawa is directed toward an automatic focus adjustment device for use with a camera that allows for accurate and fast autofocusing regardless of whether the object is stationary or moving. [Yasukawa, col. 2, lines 52-55]. The autofocus adjustment device is capable of calculating the speed at which the photographic lens will be driven to accomplish the accurate and fast autofocusing. [See e.g., Yasukawa].

However, Yasukawa does not mention the finishing or completion of the autofocusing operation with respect to other drivable parts of a camera. Hence, Yasukawa does not disclose that the autofocusing operation finishes substantially simultaneously with the operation of other drivable parts of a camera. Accordingly, Applicant’s own review of Yasukawa confirms that Yasukawa does not teach, disclose or suggest an “image-taking control apparatus that controls a first and second drivable parts . . . such that operations of the drivable parts from their current to their target positions finish substantially simultaneously” as recited in Applicant’s claim 1.

Accordingly, as Applicant cannot find the image-taking control apparatus of claim 1 in Lee or Yasukawa at least independent claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-10 are respectfully asserted to be in condition for allowance.

Applicant has chosen in the interest of expediting prosecution of this patent application to distinguish the cited documents from the pending claims as set forth above. These statements should not be regarded in any way as admissions that the cited documents are, in fact, prior art. Likewise, Applicant has chosen not to swear behind the documents cited by the office action or to otherwise submit evidence to traverse the rejection at this time. Applicant, however, reserves the right, as provided by 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.131 and 1.132, to do so in the future as appropriate. Finally, Applicant has not specifically addressed the rejections of the dependent claims. Applicant respectfully submits that the independent claims, from which they depend, are

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in condition for allowance as set forth above. Accordingly, the dependent claims also are in condition for allowance. Applicant, however, reserves the right to address such rejections of the dependent claims in the future as appropriate.

### **CONCLUSION**

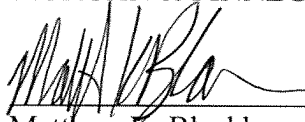
For the above-stated reasons, this application is respectfully asserted to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable examination on the merits is requested. In the event that a telephone conference would facilitate the examination of this application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY ADDITIONAL FEES WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED FOR THE TIMELY CONSIDERATION OF THIS AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 AND 1.17, OR CREDIT ANY OVERPAYMENT TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 13-4500, ORDER NO. 1232-5296.

Respectfully submitted,  
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